

## **BIPARTISAN CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON INTERNET POLITICAL PRACTICES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BIPARTISAN COMMISSION TO HOLD TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING AT STANFORD**

LOS ANGELES, March 24, 2003 – The Bipartisan Commission on Internet Political Practices will continue its examination this week of the various issues posed by campaign activity on the Internet. The Commission's Technology Subcommittee will conduct a hearing on the impact of advancing on-line technologies in the political process. The hearing will be held at Stanford Law School's Moot Courtroom on Friday, March 28 from 9:30am-3:30pm.

The Commission was created by the California legislature to study the benefits and drawbacks raised by Internet politicking. The Commission will send a final report to the legislature by December 31, 2003, recommending any appropriate legislative action.

"The Internet has opened a vast vista which enables citizens to soak up the information which is the foundation for democracy," said Subcommittee Co-Chairman Edward Hearst. "The Web also provides a fantastic forum for political discourse. This subcommittee will examine the opportunities and implications of Internet political practices."

At its meeting in December, the Commission agreed to hold three meetings around the state to be organized by Commission subcommittees. The Political Communications Subcommittee, co-chaired by Commissioners Deirdre Mulligan and Conway Collis, held a hearing on February 21, 2003 in Sacramento; the Technology Subcommittee, co-chaired by Commissioners Edward Hearst and Henry Carter, will hold its hearing at Stanford Law School on March 28; and the Campaign Finance Subcommittee, chaired by Commissioner Philip Muller, will arrange for a hearing in Los Angeles on April 25.

"The Internet is an incredible and powerful tool that can assist with organizing campaigns, educating the electorate and persuading the voter. However, existing laws and regulations may or may not cover activities that are currently conducted by politicians, advocacy groups or campaigns on the Internet," added Subcommittee Co-Chairman Henry Carter. "This commission will attempt to address these wide-ranging issues by listening and learning from the actual participants in the Internet arena from a technological and practical perspective and will thereby be better able to recommend to the legislature how the Internet should be fostered in a direction that serves the entire body-politic."

All Commission meetings are open to the public and media; agendas, time and place will be posted on the Commission's web page on the FPPC website, ([www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)).

For more information, contact Paul Cusack at 213-740-6126 or Commission chairman Geoffrey Cowan at 213-740-3987 or Subcommittee Co-Chair Edward Hearst at 925-596-1776.